

HA-1261

John Cole

Dibb House
1737 Churchville Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

The Dibb House is essentially a standard 2½-story, gable-roofed frame farmhouse disguised beneath a myriad of porches, oriels, bay and dormer windows. It represents the transformation of a basic form to suit more worldly tastes and a higher income than the average homebuilder's. The house has all the gimmicks of the Victorian style--the variety of materials, ornaments, and shapes--but it remains firmly rooted in indigenous forms. Its late 19th century garb could be peeled off to reveal the same simple farmhouse that was duplicated for generations all over Harford County.

The house was built in 1897 by John and Mary Cole. Two years later they sold it to John and Lottie Dibb, while they moved down the road to remodel the Stier House. This house is extraordinary because it is absolutely intact. The original fabric of the house is entirely unaltered, and the Latrobe stove in the west parlor may be the only one left in Harford County.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Dibb house

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1737 Churchville Road

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Harford

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Etta Dibb Martz

STREET & NUMBER

1737 Churchville Road

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

HA-1261

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the south side of Churchville Road (Maryland Route 22) between Fountain Green Road (Maryland Route 543) and Shucks Road, the Dibb house is essentially a standard frame farmhouse of the late 19th century with Victorian accessories.

With a gable roof and a central projecting bay with cross gable, this 2½-story frame house is basically el-shaped beneath a myriad of porches, oriels, bay and dormer windows. The front (north) section is three bays wide and one room deep; the rear (south) section is two bays long and one room wide. The east walls of the two sections are flush.

Set on a raised stone foundation, the house is covered with shiplap, with scalloped shingles on the gables and the sides of the dormers. The gable and dormer bargeboards have a stick design. Two interior stuccoed chimneys flank the cross gable, and there is a third interior chimney in the center of the rear section. Most windows have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters, although several have 1/1 sash with a border of square, stained glass panes around the upper light. The sides of the projecting bay windows contain narrow 1/1 sash windows. All exterior doors except the front door have two lights over two panels.

The north facade of the north section has a central projecting bay flanked by a window on each side in the first and second stories and dormers in the third story. Across the first story is a one-story, three-bay porch with scroll brackets and turned posts. (Repairs are evident in several places: the posts have been jacked up several inches on metal rods, and the porch is set on concrete blocks.) The central bay contains a double-leaf, two-panel door with transom. There are narrow 1/1 windows in each side of the bay. The door transom has a green and yellow floral pattern painted on glass. In the second story, the central bay has two 1/1 sash windows with stained glass borders around the upper lights, and windows in the sides of the projection as in the first story. In the third story, the central gable contains a porch with a trapezoidal-shaped opening and a fretwork railing. A two-light over two-panel door leads onto the porch.

The east end of the north section has a square bay window projecting from the first story, surmounted by a shed-roofed porch in the second story. There is a window in the gable above. In the first floor bay window is a 1/1 sash window with stained glass border and narrow windows in the sides of the bay. Underneath the windows are vertical board panels. Accessible by a full-length window with a stained glass border around the upper light, the second story porch has a fret railing, carved brackets, turned posts, and sunburst designs supporting the roof.

On the south facade of the front section, the south wing covers the east side, and the west has a one-story porch on the first story and a one-room addition on the second story. (This addition, if not original to the house, was added soon after it was built.) A door leads onto the porch, which has carved brackets and chamfered posts.

The west end of the north section is three-sided below the gable with three windows on each story. Under the first story windows are vertical board panels. Between the first and second stories and in the third story are sections of scalloped shingles. The windows in the second story no longer have shutters.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 1.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Dibb house
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The south section has two dormers in each side of the gable roof. The east facade has a pentagonal bay window in the first story north bay, flanked on the south by one window. The bay window contains three narrow windows with vartical board panels underneath. In the second story are two windows, and the dormers are like those in the north section.

The south end of the south section has a one-story, flat-roofed porch enclosed on the west side. A door opens onto the porch, which has carved brackets and turned posts like those on the front porch. Above this is a double window in the second story and a single window in the gable.

The west facade has two windows to the south and a door in the north bay of the first story. Under the window in the south bay is a wooden hatch to the basement. The two windows in the second story are not aligned with those in the first and are missing their shutters. There is a window in the west wall of the enclosed part of the porch.

The interior plan of the north section consists of a central stair hall with a room opening off either side; the south wing has two rooms with a pantry off the south end and winder stairs to the second floor in the south room.

Although the outline of each room is different, all exhibit the Victorian penchant for large, airy spaces and polygonal shapes. Not one of the first floor rooms is a simple square or rectangle. The woodwork is regular throughout: the trim is characterized by two bands of reeding separated by a central ovolo band and all rooms have the same baseboard. Except for the kitchen, where the trim has been painted, the woodwork is stained and completely unaltered. The hall floors on all three floors are of alternating light and dark boards. All rooms had stoves at one time, and the fireplaces were built for Latrobe stoves rather than fires.

In the north section, the central hall has a single-run staircase on the east side; underneath the stairs is a closet. At the north end of the hall, doors to the two adjacent rooms open at an angle on either side of the front door. At the south end is an exterior door, flanked on the east by a door to the dining room (the north room of the south wing). In the south corner of the west wall is a door to the west room. In the hall the trim is more colorful than in the rest of the house, with a dark reddish central ovolo that contrasts with the lighter stained woodwork. The closed-string stair has turned balusters and a square newel post with central vertical reeded insets and a raised-bull's eye on each side crowned by a ball with horisontal beading.

The west room has a projecting chimney breast in the east wall, with a red painted slate mantel, a slate hearth, and a Latrobe stove with a hood bearing the name "Windsor".

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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Dibb house
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

Painted to look like red marble with white streaks, the mantelpiece consists of a simple shelf supported on black brackets, a fascia with three black diamonds, and flanking the opening, pilasters set on projecting bases with black collars at the caps and decorated with a stylized design of black diamonds and white lines.

The east room has a similar arrangement, with double doors to the dining room in the south wall. In the west wall, in a projecting chimney breast, is a dark green painted slate mantel with a plain shelf, a fascia with simple incised designs, pilasters flanking the opening with black collars at the caps and bases, and a slate hearth. The bay window in the east wall is paneled, with chamfered pilasters at the corners.

In the south wing, the dining room has an exterior door in the north corner of the west wall. In the south wall is a door to the kitchen in the west corner and a closet in the east corner. The bay in the east wall is paneled with chamfered posts at the corners.

The kitchen, at the south end of the south wing, has enclosed winder steps in the southwest corner with a door to the basement on the north side. The south wall has an exterior door on the east and a door to the pantry on the west.

On the second floor, the plan is essentially the same, with two rooms and the south wing opening off the stair landing at the south end of the stair hall and a room at the north end of the hall. All rooms have closets and holes where the stove registers were. At the south end of the hall is a door to the bathroom, which was installed later. There is a kerosene lamp attached to the north side of the window.

The third floor plan consists of two rooms flanking the central hall in the north section and one room in the south section. Here the doors are board and batten, and the trim around the dormers is plain.

In the attic above the south wing, the rafters are butted together and the original wood shingles are visible.

The one-room basement exists only under the south wing and has stone walls and a brick pier in the center. There are windows in the south corner of the west wall and in the east wall; in the west wall are exterior steps.

There are three outbuildings on the Dibb property: a shed south of the house, a barn southwest of the house, and an outhouse south of the barn.

With a tin shed roof and exposed eaves, the shed is frame covered with shiplap and corner boards. In the north side is a batten door, and on the west is an opening with a hinged board shutter. On the east side close to the ground is another small opening covered by a hinged shutter.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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Dibb house
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The 2½-story board and batten barn is set on a stone foundation and has a shingled cupola. The south side has a double door on the west and two doors to stables on the east. The east end has a hinged door in the gable; the north side has a door in the center of the first story; and the west end has a hinged door in the second story.

The outhouse is frame with a shed roof. It has a four-panel door on the north side, and a louvred window on the south side.

Etta Martz, who grew up in the house at the beginning of this century and lives there now, says the room has been there since she can remember, and was made into a bathroom by her family.

The acreage included in this nomination contains the lawn around the house and a wide belt of old trees behind and on both sides of the house. These trees give the house a setting by itself, unaltered from the time the house was built. (See photograph #1.)

SIGNIFICANCE

HA-1261

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 0-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES: 1897

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural character of the Dibb house stands halfway between the ordinary farmhouse and the full-fledged Victorian castle. As such, it represents the transformation of a basic form to suit more worldly tastes and a higher income than the average homebuilder's. The house has all the gimmicks of the Victorian style--the variety of materials, ornaments, and shapes--but it remains firmly rooted in indigenous forms. Its late 19th century garb could be peeled off to reveal the same simple farmhouse that was duplicated for generations all over Harford County.

The Dibb house is exemplary of this type. Not only did the builder go to great lengths to be stylish, but the house remains nearly perfectly intact. The original fabric, both interior and exterior, is entirely unaltered except for a few replaced porch posts. The Latrobe stove in the west parlor may be the only one left in Harford County. The 14-acre setting and 150 year-old trees also should be noted, especially in this closely developed area near Bel Air. A house of this vintage in this condition is extremely rare in Harford County.

The unaltered state of this house can be accounted for in part because it remained in the same family for more than eighty years. It was built by John² and Mary Cole in 1897--on a 15-acre parcel originally part of the Old Poor House Farm.² Within two years, the Coles had moved down the road to remodel a small house into another Victorian mansion (the Stier house), and tinsmith John T. Dibb and his wife, Lottie, moved in.³ The house has remained in the Dibb family, as the six children--Lottie, Etta, Annie, Naomi, John Roy, and Margaret--took turns living here.

¹According to restoration architect James Wollon, 600 Craigs Corner Rd. Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078.

²Harford County Deed WSF 90/133.

³Harford County Deed WSF 94/345.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

NA-1261

Land and Probate Records of Harford County. (Title Search by Barbara Dubin, Bel Air, Maryland.)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 9 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Bel Air Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 3881040 4378300

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE

December 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

301-879-2000, Ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bal Air

STATE

Maryland 21014

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

1-2-80

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

HA-1261

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Dibb House
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 4

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at a point on the south side of Maryland, Route 22 about .5 miles east of its intersection with Maryland Route 543; thence, east along the south side of Route 22 about 850 feet; thence, south southeast about 500 feet; thence, west southwest about 550 feet; thence, northwest about 650 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately 9 acres.

